

[TS-HK-AB/052]

Information as of 0700 EST

17 January 1973

Situation Report #13-73

NGA, NAVY
Reviews Completed

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Soviet Naval Activity in the Caribbean

1. The submarine tender Borodino was detected by radio direction-finding about 300 miles east of Bermuda this morning. It was overflown by a US naval intelligence collection aircraft yesterday. Believed returning to USSR

2. In the Caribbean, the Soviet rescue tug that left Cienfuegos on 15 January has not been detected since then. The Kresta cruiser and tanker Kursk are still in Cienfuegos, and the Kanin destroyer and F class submarine are still in the Mariel area.

3. The E-II class nuclear-powered cruise missile submarine that was recently in the Caribbean was near the Azores yesterday. The E-II is probably returning to its base in the Soviet Northern Fleet. This submarine left Northern Fleet waters independently on about 24 October 1972. It was tracked by the US Navy's SOSUS (sound surveillance system) through the Norwegian Sea until it passed east of Iceland and out of the Norwegian Sea SOSUS area on 28 October. It probably joined the Kresta cruiser and Kanin destroyer in late November in the western Atlantic while they were on their way to Cuba. The cruiser and destroyer reached Cienfuegos on 1 December. The cruiser then left port to draw the US surveillance ship away from the area for the arrival of the E-II at Cienfuegos on 3 December.

NOTE: This memorandum was prepared solely by CIA. It was produced by the Office of Strategic Research and coordinated with the Office of Current Intelligence.

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4. The E-II moored in the northern part of Cienfuegos Bay, where it was photographed by U-2 missions [redacted]

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5. Decoy tactics were used again for the departure of the E-II from Cienfuegos. The Kresta cruiser left port on 3 January and steamed 100 miles south, drawing the US surveillance ship with it. The Kresta returned to Cienfuegos on 4 January. Photography [redacted] showed that the E-II was almost certainly gone. It had probably departed on the night of 3-4 January.

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6. The voyage of the tender Borodino began on 24 November when it left the Baltic and proceeded directly to Rio de Janeiro, where it visited from 16 to 20 December. From Rio de Janeiro, the Borodino made another direct transit to the Caribbean, where it was overflown by a US naval intelligence collection aircraft [redacted]. The Borodino arrived at Cienfuegos on 5 January, shortly after the E-II had probably left port. The E-II and the Borodino could have made a brief rendezvous at sea south of Cuba on 4 January, but such an operation is unlikely in the heavily travelled Caribbean sea lanes. In Cienfuegos the Borodino moored at the commercial fuel pier. It departed on 8 January for Havana, remained there from 10 to 12 January, and then began its return transit to the USSR.

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